

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for picking up a ~~tacky~~ plastic product lying on a conveyor belt, ~~for transport and for depositing in a mold in a molding press,~~ comprising:

setting down on longitudinal margins of the conveyor belt one or more resilient carrier plates, and

picking up the plastic product by the ~~resiliently and~~ one or more carrier plates by slipping the ~~one or more resilient carrier plate or~~ plates between the plastic product and a surface of the belt.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for picking up a tacky plastic product ~~[[,]]~~ lying on a conveyor belt, ~~for transport and for deposit in the mold of a molding press, for practicing the method according to claim 1,~~ the apparatus comprising:

transversely driven resilient carrier plates adapted to slip under and lift the plastic product by its lateral margins and thereby pick it up.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 2, ~~characterized by a resiliently flexible construction of wherein~~ the carrier plates are made from spring steel.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ according to claim 2, further comprising a lifting drive on a lifting spindle adapted to resiliently urge the carrier plates against the surface of the conveyor belt, for insertion underneath the plastic product and a cross rail on which the carrier plates are adapted to be driven toward a longitudinal central axis.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to claim 4, ~~characterized by a slanting application of wherein~~ the carrier plates are adapted to engage in a slanting application to cross travel guides.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a device for cleaning the carrier plates attached in an area of ~~the~~ cross travel drives.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that further comprising a drive transports adapted to transport~~ the plastic product on a track.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a cleaning device, ~~in which adapted wherein the cleaning device is adapted to~~ engage with and clean the carrier plates cyclically or after x-cycles.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ bearing surfaces of the carrier plates and/or of the conveyor belt have a parting coat.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The method~~ Method according to claim 1, further comprising treating bearing surfaces of the carrier plates and/or of the conveyor belt repeatedly with talc.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus~~ Apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a roller coating unit adapted to coat the conveyor belt with a parting agent in a bottom-stretch return run of the conveyor belt.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The method~~ Method according to claim 1, further comprising treating bearing surfaces of the carrier plates and/or of the conveyor belt with talc cyclically or after x-cycles.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for picking up a plastic product lying on a conveyor belt, the apparatus comprising:

transversely driven carrier plates adapted to slip under and lift the plastic product by its lateral margins and thereby pick it up,

wherein ~~Apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that~~ the conveyor belt is a wire grating belt having a spacing between wires, and

wherein ~~in that~~ a width of one of the carrier plates is larger than the spacing of the wires in the conveyor belt.

14. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the plastic product is tacky.

15. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of cleaning the carrier plates in which plastic residues are stripped away by a divided stroke.

16. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of cleaning the carrier plates in which the carrier plates are cleaned cyclically or after a number of cycles.

17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a molding press for receiving the plastic product picked up by the carrier plates.